



Videlis, Harron & Dennis –
3 AIDS orphans in the program

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Thank you for your generous support of the Children of Bukati (COB) project in Western Kenya. This project is enabling 320 AIDS orphans to go to school. Your donation will pay for pens, pencils and uniforms for these children and will provide a lunch of corn and beans. For many months of the year, this may be the only meal the children eat on school days.

These AIDS orphans are living with aunts, uncles, grandmothers, siblings and neighbours. The foster parents are poor subsistence farmers who live on less than \$1 per day. They are generous, caring, hard working people who provide a home for the AIDS orphans but cannot afford to provide the essentials for school and often cannot provide sufficient food for all of the children in their care. Through your generosity, these children can earn a grade 8 education.

So far we have provided pens and pencils to all of the AIDS orphans for two school terms. School uniforms are being made for 212 AIDS orphans. We have contracted with the owner of the local tailor shop. He has hired 4 other tailors. This has provided work for 5 local adults and will ensure that the AIDS orphans have uniforms for the start of the school year in January.

The lunch program will start early in the New Year. We will buy one month of food at a time to reduce the cost of the food. The school principal will establish a storage room at the school. The community will provide firewood and women to cook the food and our project will provide the food. The plan is to provide lunch for 150 days per year. The community will feed the children during harvest season and during vacation.

We are working on proposals for projects that will sustain the project once our support of the project is finished. We hope to provide lunch, uniforms and pens and pencils for five years. The community will continue the project.

We have established a school library by bringing 150 kg of used library books to the school. This has provided the first opportunity for the children to read a book that was not a school textbook. The children and teachers of the Sir Isaac Brock Elementary School in Guelph have made special connections with the children in Kenya by writing letters to the children, teachers and principal at the Bukati Primary School. The Kenyan school children and teachers sent letters back to Canada.

Finally, the children at the Bukati Primary School made bracelets to be sold in Canada. This is a symbolic and direct connection between the children in need and the Canadians who care. We are selling the bracelets for \$5.00 each. This will provide lunch for one child for one week.

It will cost \$150 to provide school lunches, a uniform, pens and pencils for one child for one year. Our goal is to raise \$360,000. So far, we have raised \$ 30,000. If you wish to donate, please make the cheque payable to Stone United Church and put Kenyan Outreach on the memo line.

Thank you again for your generous donation. It is people like you who are making a difference in the lives of these AIDS orphans.